

NANCY J. WARD.

JANUARY 16, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BAKER, of Kansas, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9878.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9878) granting an increase of pension to Nancy J. Ward, having carefully considered the facts presented, respectfully report:

James C. Ward enlisted as a private in Company C, One hundred and forty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, February 10, 1865, and was honorably discharged September 27, 1865. He applied for pension June 30, 1885, for bronchitis, jaundice, and scurvy, contracted in service, but died May 18, 1890, of Bright's disease of kidneys, before said claim was adjudicated. He left a widow, Nancy J. Ward, and four children, Sarah E., born April 24, 1872; Columbus M., born October 7, 1875; Millie A., born November 19, 1878, and Perry A., born October 6, 1880.

His widow was pensioned under act of June 27, 1890, at \$8 per month for herself and \$2 each for the three youngest children of said soldier; but the claim of the widow (filed September 4, 1896) as guardian of the eldest child, Sarah E. Ward, who has been permanently helpless from epilepsy since about 1880, was rejected on the ground that said child was over 16 years of age at date of soldier's death, and therefore not pensionable under present laws.

The testimony filed in Pension Bureau and with the committee clearly shows that said Sarah E. Ward has been for several years permanently helpless from attacks of epilepsy, which has affected her mental powers, and she now requires the constant care and attention of some other person; so much so that her mother, who has maintained and cared for her, is now much broken down in health from her constant burden.

As this child was about 18 years of age when her father died, she is not eligible to pension under present laws, but the committee believe the claim is a meritorious one and in line of many precedents, and therefore recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to place upon the invalid pension roll the name of Nancy J. Ward, mother and guardian of Sarah E. Ward, the permanently helpless child of James C. Ward, late a private of Company C, One hundred and forty-ninth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, and pay her a pension at the rate of ten dollars per month, additional to that now received, during the natural life of said Sarah E. Ward, and in case of the death or remarriage of the mother, Nancy J. Ward, the mother's present pension and ten dollars per month additional shall be paid to the guardian of Sarah E. Ward, during the natural life of said permanently helpless child, for her use and benefit.

Also amend title of bill so as to read: "Granting an increase of pension to Nancy J. Ward."

